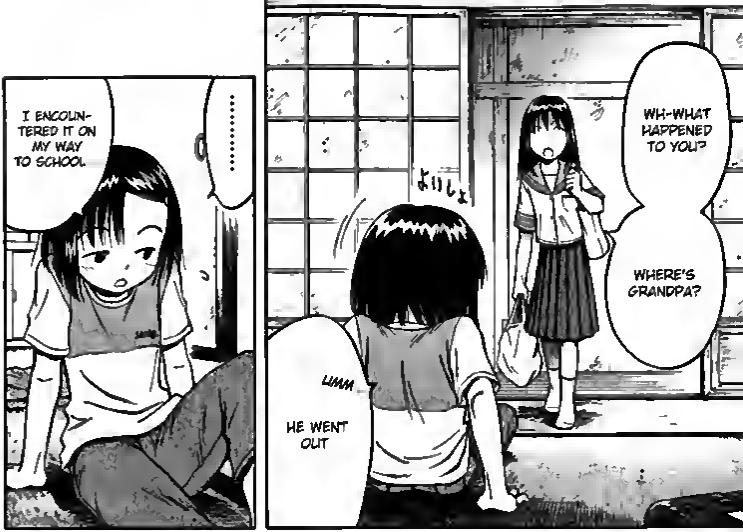
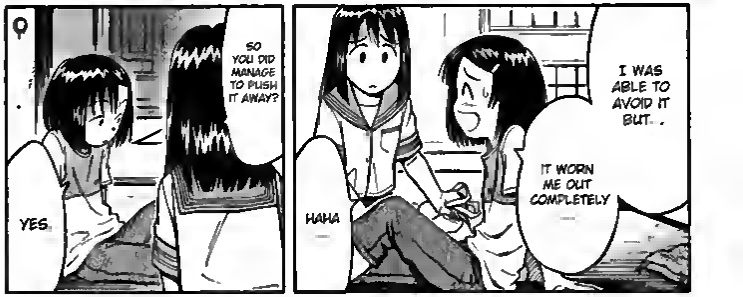
#9
Mikoshi

キッ
THERE YOU GO!
ガサ
ガチャ
I'M BACK!
カラカラ

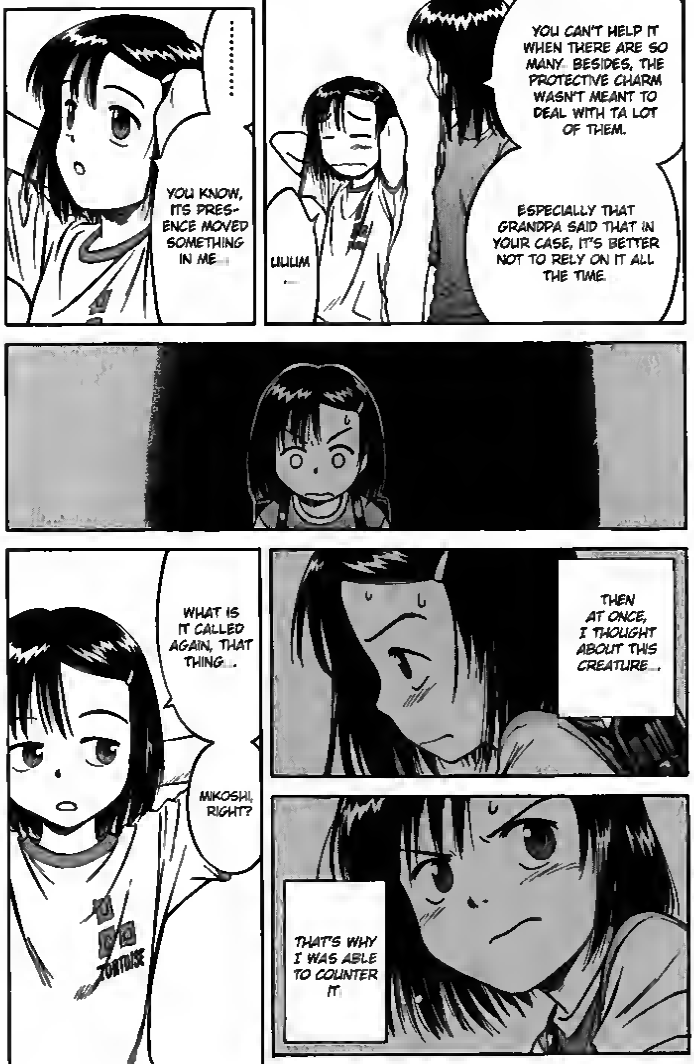
MIZUKI, ARE YOU HOME?
CAN YOU COME AND TAKE THIS BAG?
MIZUKI?
AH...
HEY THERE, SHIZURU...

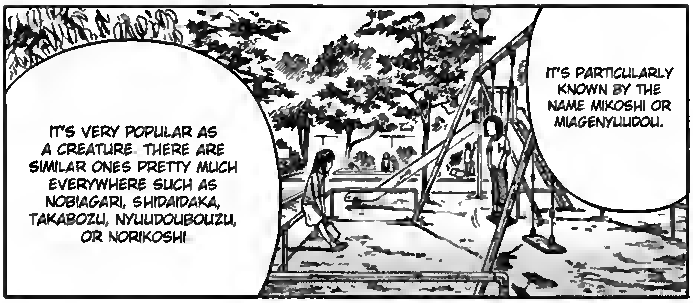

WH-WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
WHERE'S GRANDPA?
よいしょ
UMM..
HE WENT OUT
I ENCOUNTERED IT ON MY WAY TO SCHOOL
.....

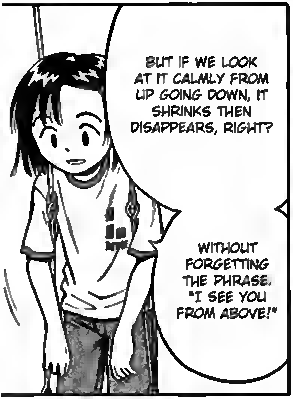

I WAS ABLE TO AVOID IT BUT..
IT WORN ME OUT COMPLETELY
HAHA
SO YOU DID MANAGE TO PUSH IT AWAY?
YES.

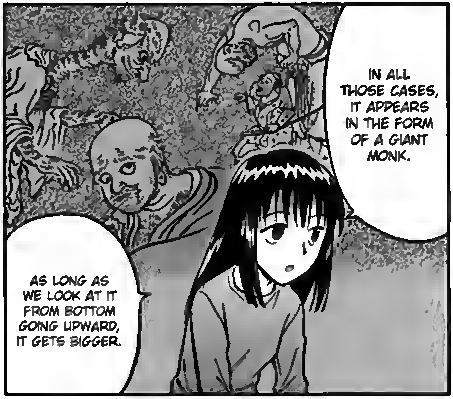
THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME ..
THAT I ENCOUNTER THIS THING.

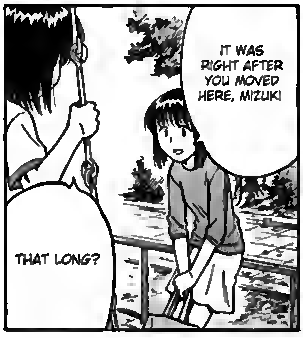
I'M SEEING A LOT..
I CAN'T SAY I'M SUR-PRISED
I OFTEN FEEL THEIR PRESENCE LATELY.
I'M REALLY BEING CAREFUL BUT STILL .

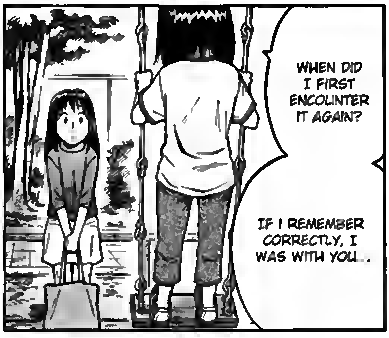

.....
YOU KNOW, IT'S PRESENCE MOVED SOMETHING IN ME...
UUUM...
YOU CAN'T HELP IT WHEN THERE ARE SO MANY. BESIDES, THE PROTECTIVE CHARM WASN'T MEANT TO DEAL WITH TA LOT OF THEM.
ESPECIALLY THAT GRANDPA SAID THAT IN YOUR CASE, IT'S BETTER NOT TO RELY ON IT ALL THE TIME.
WHAT IS IT CALLED AGAIN, THAT THING...
MIKOSHI, RIGHT?
THEN AT ONCE, I THOUGHT ABOUT THIS CREATURE...
THAT'S WHY I WAS ABLE TO COUNTER IT.


IT'S VERY POPULAR AS A CREATURE. THERE ARE SIMILAR ONES PRETTY MUCH EVERYWHERE SUCH AS NOBIAGARI, SHIDAIDAKA, TAKABOZU, NYUUDOUBOUZU, OR NORIKOSHI.
IT'S PARTICULARLY KNOWN BY THE NAME MIKOSHI OR MIAGENYUUDOU.

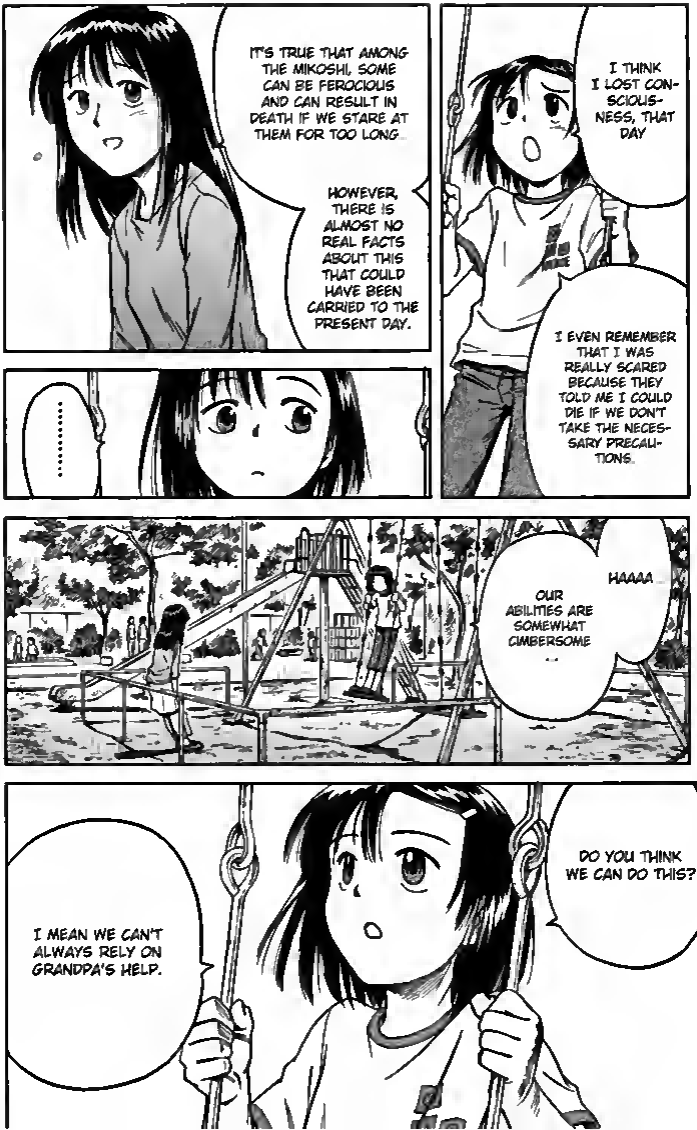

BUT IF WE LOOK AT IT CALMLY FROM UP GOING DOWN, IT SHRINKS THEN DISAPPEARS, RIGHT?
WITHOUT FORGETTING THE PHRASE, "I SEE YOU FROM ABOVE!"


IN ALL THOSE CASES, IT APPEARS IN THE FORM OF A GIANT MONK.
AS LONG AS WE LOOK AT IT FROM BOTTOM GOING UPWARD, IT GETS BIGGER.


IT WAS RIGHT AFTER YOU MOVED HERE, MIZUKI.
THAT LONG?


WHEN DID I FIRST ENCOUNTER IT AGAIN?
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, I WAS WITH YOU...

＊全く無い訳ではない。例えば、西村白鳥「煙霞綺氏」には
出会った男が、熱病に憑り死ぬ話が載る。



SOMETIMES, I FEEL REALLY SCARED.
DON'T YOU FEEL SCARED TOO, SHIZURU?
AAH..
YES.
I DO...
ァァァァァ

WOAAA
THEY'RE OBO
CREATURES LIKE THIS ONE ARE NUMER OUS SUCH AS OKOYAMA'S SUNEKOSURI AND NOTSUGO OF SHIKOKU.
THESE ARE YOUKAI THAT COME TO SPIN AROUND YOUR FEET.
WOA
Y... YES.
DO YOU SEE THEM?
WOAAA
WOAAA
すろ
すろ
A HAND-KER-CHIEF?
I'M GONNA HAVE TO TAKE A PIECE, SORRY.
YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING, SHIZURU?
FOR NOW, THEY'RE HARMLESS SINCE WE'RE ATTRACTING THEM ON PURPOSE. HOWEVER, ONCE THEY POSSESS YOU YOU WILL HARDLY BE ABLE TO WALK.
IN THAT CASE, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GIVE THEM A PIECE OF CLOTH YOU HAVE ON YOU
ふぃっ
フン
フン
フン
ビィッ

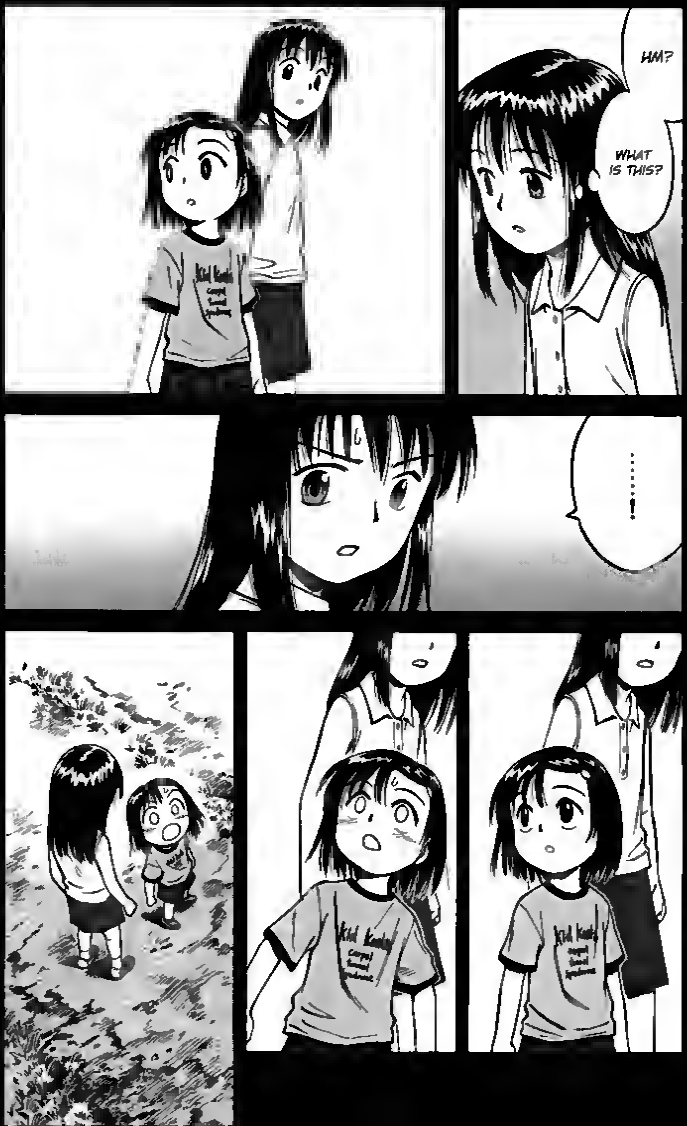
T/N: ZOURI IS JAPANESE SANDALS.
COME.
BEFORE, WE USED TO GIVE THEM BRIDLES OF ZOURI OR RINGS THROUGH WHICH WE PASS A THREAD CALLED CHI.
CHI COMES FROM CHICHI (BREAST) AND IT SYMBOLIZES THE MOTHER. IN OTHERS WORDS, THESE CREATURES ARE CHILDREN LOOKING FOR THEIR MOTHER.
!
THEREFORE YOU HAVE TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SEEING THEN REFLECT ON IT...
THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE WHICH YOU WILL ACQUIRE FROM THE ELDERS
.....
THIS SHIZURU
SIMPLY BEING ABLE TO SEE THEM WILL ONLY MAKE YOU MORE WORRIED
.....
YES, GRANDPA.

THEY'VE LEFT...
MOM AND MIZUKI...
DON'T WORRY. THEY'LL COME BACK VERY SOON.
.....
WHEN WE REACH THE END OF THE CALEN-DAR!
EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE, SHIZURU...
SOMEDAY WE'LL ALL BE ABLE TO LIVE TOGETHER.

IF ONLY WE CAN STAY TOGETHER...
WITH GRANDPA, GRANDMA, MOM AND MIZUKI...
I HOPE THAT MIZUKI WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE THEM.

SO, DO YOU LIKE LIVING HERE, MIZUKI?
YES, I LIKE IT!
BESIDES, I MADE NEW FRIENDS!
DON'T YOU MISS MOM AND DAD?
ERR...
YEAH I MISS THEM BUT ...
HERE THERE'S YOU, GRANDPA AND GRANDMA...
AND MY BODY FEELS SO LIGHT COMPARED TO THERE!
.....

SHE'S REALLY STRONG ...
MIZUKI...
I HOPE THAT SOON I WON'T ATTRACT SPIRITS ANYMORE!
THAT WAY I'LL BE ABLE TO HAVE FUN ON MY OWN ANYWHERE!
RIGHT.


HM?
WHAT IS THIS?
.....!

MIZUKI!
くたっ
MI...

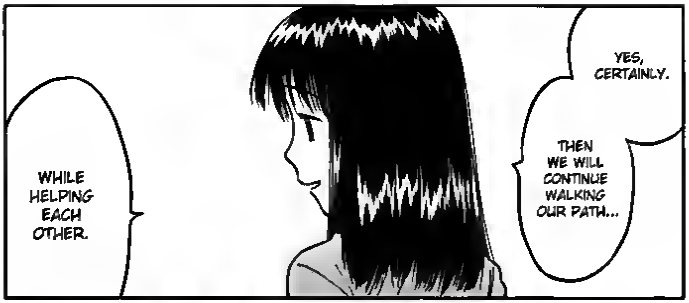
EULIH... IT'S... IT'S...
SHOOT, WHAT WAS THIS CREATURE AGAIN?
キッ
I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO LOOK IT FROM DOWN GOING UP...
BUT FROM UP TO DOWN ....

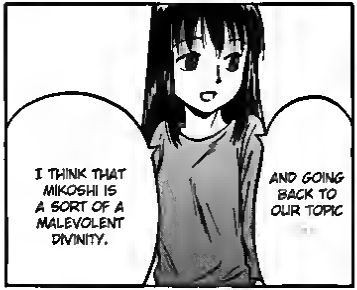
I SEE YOU FROM ABOVE!
ハッ
ハァ

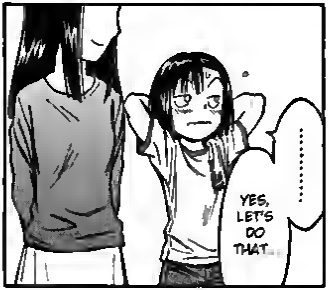
I'M SORRY, SHIZURU...
I'M HEAVY, RIGHT?
DON'T WORRY.
DO YOU THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE IT
BOTH OF US?

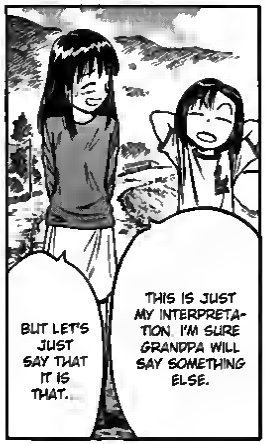
EVERY-THING WILL BE OKAY...
I'M SURE OF IT.
LOOK...
IF YOU MANAGED TO FACE THE DANGER THIS TIME, IT'S BECAUSE YOU KNEW WHAT YOU HAD TO DO.
WE'VE BECAME STRONGER, BOTH OF US.

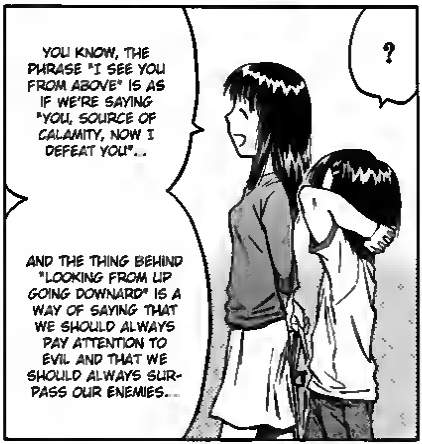
I KNOW TOO WELL
THAT IT'S USELESS TO WORRY
I HOPE SO
YES, SINCE THE BEGINNING, WE WERE READY TO FACE ANY DANGER.
WE KNOW HOW TO ACT WHEN THE TIMES COMES.
.....
EXACTLY.
WE HAVE TO BE WELL PREPARED SO WE WON'T FEEL SCARED
PERHAPS WE SHOULD EXPECT THE WORST...
IN ORDER FOR THINGS TO GET BETTER.
THAT'S RIGHT.

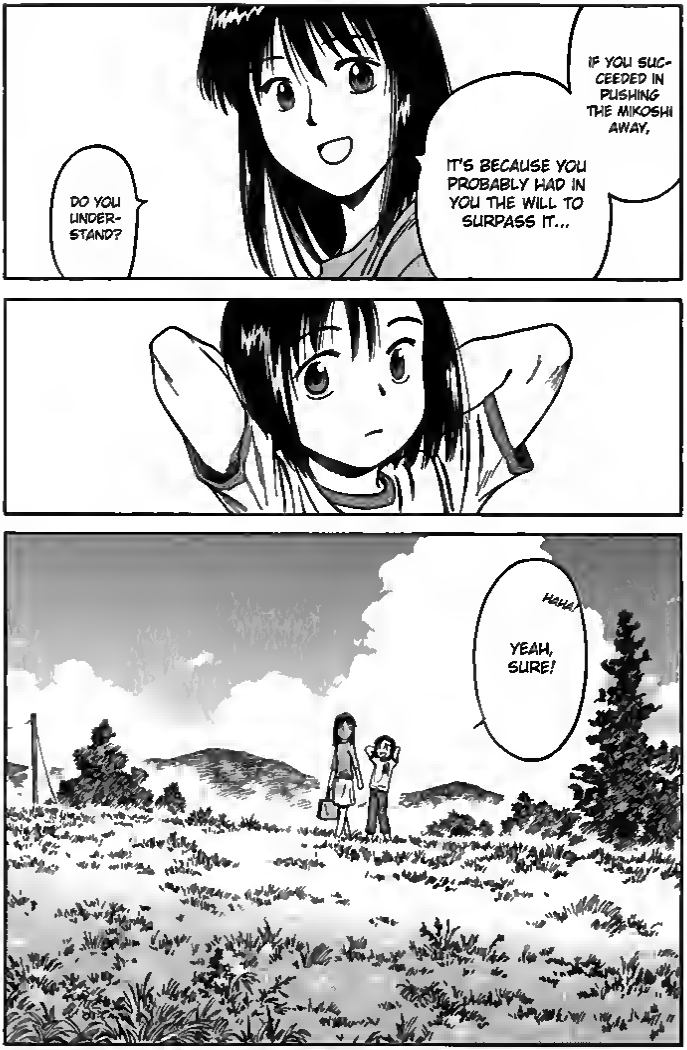

YES, CERTAINLY.
THEN WE WILL CONTINUE WALKING OUR PATH...
WHILE HELPING EACH OTHER.


AND GOING BACK TO OUR TOPIC
I THINK THAT MIKOSHI IS A SORT OF A MALEVOLENT DIVINITY.


.....
YES, LET'S DO THAT.


THIS IS JUST MY INTERPRETATION. I'M SURE GRANDPA WILL SAY SOMETHING ELSE.
BUT LET'S JUST SAY THAT IT IS THAT...


?
YOU KNOW, THE PHRASE "I SEE YOU FROM ABOVE" IS AS IF WE'RE SAYING "YOU, SOURCE OF CALAMITY, NOW I DEFEAT YOU"...
AND THE THING BEHIND "LOOKING FROM UP GOING DOWNARD" IS A WAY OF SAYING THAT WE SHOULD ALWAYS PAY ATTENTION TO EVIL AND THAT WE SHOULD ALWAYS SURPASS OUR ENEMIES...


IF YOU SUCCEEDED IN PUSHING THE MIKOSHI AWAY,
IT'S BECAUSE YOU PROBABLY HAD IN YOU THE WILL TO SURPASS IT...
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
HAHA
YEAH, SURE!